



NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

Today I attended a classified briefing conducted by General Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. We discussed yesterday's cruise missile strike against the airfield that Syrian President Assad used to launch a chemical weapon attack against his own people.

The horrific suffering of the Syrian people is an urgent international crisis, and has been for years. The many war crimes the Assad regime has committed, including the use of chemical weapons and the indiscriminate slaughter of civilians, have no place in a civilized world.

While our military strike was measured and carried out to send a warning, the situation on the ground is very complex and requires an accompanying diplomatic and humanitarian strategy. That is why President Trump must reverse his plan to cut the State Department and humanitarian aid budgets, and work with the international community to help the Syrian people.

He must also come to Congress to obtain an Authorization for the Use of Military Force. As he himself tweeted in 2013, "The President must get Congressional approval before attacking Syria." As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I take Congress's Constitutional responsibility to authorize the use of military force very seriously. I call on the Trump administration to immediately present Congress with a request for such an authorization along with a detailed strategy for success, just as I called on the Obama administration to do in 2013. The need for an AUMF is especially urgent in light of today's comments from U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley that President Trump is "prepared to do more" in terms of military engagement in Syria.

Improving Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

I secured authorization of opioid treatment funding for at-risk youth during this week's Education and Workforce Committee markup. This language will give us one more tool to fight New Hampshire's opioid crisis. Watch my remarks explaining why this language is so important for our state, which is on the front line in the nationwide battle against the heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid epidemic:



Now the bill, including my treatment provision, has been sent to the House floor with a bipartisan vote.

Medicare You Can Opt Into

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, our national uninsured rate is the lowest on record – now it's time to take the next step toward universal health care. That's why yesterday I introduced [H.R.2065](#), the Medicare You Can Opt Into Act of 2017. Everyone in America deserves good health coverage at an affordable price, but insurance companies are still charging too much for too little. When we require private insurers to compete with Medicare on cost and quality, it's New Hampshire consumers who will win.

The Medicare You Can Opt Into Act would open up the Medicare program to any American who wanted to buy in, creating a public option to increase competition, choice, efficiency, transparency, and affordability in the insurance market.

Pushing for Permanent, Streamlined Access to Non-V.A. Care

This week, I supported passage of a short-term extension of the Veterans Choice Program (VCP). Following House passage, I wrote to House and Senate leadership calling for action on a permanent, user-friendly solution for veterans who need non-V.A. care in the community.

Our nation's veterans deserve the benefits we have promised to them, and that includes timely access to the best medical care our country has to offer. Congress will be able to build on its commitment to provide this care within the VA by strengthening the VA health system while also streamlining veterans' access to private care when it is needed.

Defending Veterans' Education Benefits

On Thursday, I co-introduced the Veterans Education Relief and Restoration Act (VERRA), a bill to assist veterans who lost Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits due to recent for-profit college closures, including Nashua's Daniel Webster College, a subsidiary of ITT Tech, which closed in 2016. Too many veterans have been left without the chance to finish their degree because the for-profit college they were attending folded. VERRA would restore post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to veterans in this unfortunate situation. When colleges go out of business, veterans shouldn't have to suffer the consequences.

Standing up for Fair Pay

On Tuesday, Equal Pay Day, I again co-introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act. Equal Pay Day symbolizes the date when women's wages finally catch up to what men were paid in the previous year. Compared to national figures, the disparity in New Hampshire is even greater – our state [ranks 47th](#) in the nation for paycheck fairness, according to the National Women's Law Center, with women in New Hampshire losing an average of \$534,120 over a 40-year career due to the gender pay gap.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would help change that by strengthening the 1963 Equal Pay Act, closing loopholes in the law, and providing more effective remedies for women who are not being paid equally for equal work. This is a fairness issue and an economic issue: New Hampshire families rely on women's wages to make ends meet, and when women are paid less than men for the same work, it affects the whole family.

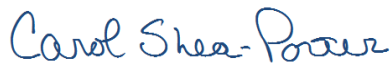
Closing Thoughts

This week, Congresswoman Kuster and I announced a call for entries for the 2017 Congressional Art Competition. Each spring, members of Congress sponsor a nationwide high school visual art competition where students from across the country submit their artwork to be displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building. Our state's high school artists have produced some amazing artwork through the years and I am excited to see what this year's contributors will exhibit. For more information, view full contest guidelines at shea-porter.house.gov/services/art-competition.

As always, it was a pleasure to meet with constituent advocates at my D.C. office. Check out pictures with some of this week's visitors [here](#).

Thank you for the honor of representing you in Congress.

Best wishes,



Carol

This week's press releases

- [Shea-Porter Co-Introduces Bill to Restore Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits for Veterans Affected by For-Profit College Closures](#)
- [Shea-Porter Introduces Medicare You Can Opt Into Act of 2017](#)
- [Shea-Porter: Congress Must Act on Permanent, Streamlined Access to Non-V.A. Care](#)
- [Shea-Porter, Kuster Announce 2017 Congressional Art Competition](#)
- [Shea-Porter Secures Opioid Treatment Funding Source for At-Risk Youth](#)
- [Shea-Porter Co-Introduces Paycheck Fairness Act on Equal Pay Day](#)



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